



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

\$1.⁰⁰

Volume III, Number 10

February 18, 1991

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery." Is that the saying? I was so impressed with Dave's masthead in his "Issue that Blew Everyone Away" that I decided to add something to this "worst graphic newsletter". Hope you like it. We have a double live report in this issue. First is a WCW card from Jacksonville which took place on 2/15. Then we have a live report on the WWF's "Superstars of Wrestling" taping from Orlando on 2/18. These shows will air just prior to WRESTLEMANIA so they should finish up the angles for the big show. (By hearing some of the bouts, it doesn't sound so big.) Scott Hudson covers the latest TBS and Georgia All-Star tapings in his journal. Klon is by with his mushrooms and Marianne Ryan will be jotting some more "Notes From The Parking Lot". "Ramblings" and some great "Letters To "AR" along with "Correspondent's Corner" round out the ish.

Next issue will be cover dated March 4. I'm thinking of taking a weekend trip to Manatee (with wife and kid in tow) to see a Suncoast Pro taping on March 2nd. I don't catch the indies that much and with nothing going on, I'll probably take it in. Signed to appear name wise are Lou Perez, Rex King, Jumbo Berretta, hey it's an indy, what do you expect. The main event which wasn't confirmed at press time was skedded to be Dick Slater vs. Tommy Rogers which is decent for an indy. We'll have a review of WRESTLEWAR where Brian Pillman will most likely get destroyed. Scott Hudson will hopefully have some more taping news for us. Mike Terry and Evan Ginzburg will drop in for their columns as well. Something that will be debuting soon in these pages on an irregular basis will be something I'm calling, "Fan Scan Profile". It will be a mini profile on a newsletter reader that has become a common name in the sheets, i.e. Harry White, Steve Sims, Teresa DeMarie etc. It'll debut as soon as I get the questionnaires in the mail to the people I want to fill them out. John Lanigan gave me this idea. It's similar to what Lance did in "Choke", sorry, "Chokehold", a little while back.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly and the cost is \$1.00 per issue. All renewals, subs, letters, results and the like may be sent to Ron Lemieux, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. The label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have remaining on your sub. Enjoy reading. Now, let's go to J-Ville.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
Friday, February 15, 1991
Jacksonville Coliseum
Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Tim Horner pinned Dutch Mantell in 5:11 with a rollup. Mostly comedy with Dutch. Mantell comes out to the Rawhide theme. I thought I was listening

to Steve Beverly's answering machine. Should have been better. Dud

2nd Match

Terry Taylor and Brian Pillman wrestled to a draw at 14:04. No Alexandra York. Terry is a great heel. Has the heel mannerisms down pat. He started strutting and the fans were calling out, "Rooster, rooster." Hey, a good way to get heat. Match was real good after the first stalling 3:00. Brian had Terry in a backslide when time expired. ***

Six Man Tag Team Match

Ricky Morton, Tommy Rich, & Junkyard Dog defeated Buddy Landell, Dan Spivey, & Black Bart in 9:44. Spivey and Bart were subs for Freebirds. Should have reason for their no-show in "Ramblings". Landell looks like he's competing with Bill Parcells of the Giants for weight loss. Looking even trimmer. On the other hand, JYD must be competing with Buddy-Rose on the "Blow Away Diet". Morton and Landell opened up with a hot 2:00. You should have seen the disgusted look on Buddy's face when Dog tagged in. Like, "Oh, now we have to sell for this stiff." JYD cleaned house and wouldn't sell for Spivey. Good way to get your #1 contender for the U.S. title over. Black Bart worked like he was campaigning for a full time slot. Worked his butt off. I'm sure he's one of the guys Dusty talked with while in Titan. End came as Dog thumped Bart but Spivey broke up the pin. Rich came in and covered Bartster for the win. Makes sense right? In the NWA it does. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ for Bart, Morton, and Buddy.

4th Match

Brad Armstrong beat Big Cat in 5:47 after Brad was on the apron and Cat tried to slam him back in the ring but Brad held on and rolled him up. Cat did a nice sequence (something wrong with that line) when he delivered two successive backbreakers over the knee and bodyslam in rapid fashion. *

5th Match

Bobby Eaton & Tom Zenk over Barry Windham & Arn Anderson in 17:20. Bout started out as a single match between Barry and Zenk. Terry Taylor came to ringside at the 3:00 mark in street clothes. Eaton came out to even the score Taylor left the area and as Bobby was making his way to the dressing room, he saw Arn coming out of the other dressing room and he came back. Ref asked if they wanted to make it a tag match and they agreed. Why would Bobby give up his TV title shot to team with snooze man? They were skedde to wrestle in a single bout. (Arn and Bobby.) Arn had his left thigh tape heavily from his injury. Didn't hamper him much. Bout was excellent. Ur real how great Bobby Eaton is. Eaton got snot beat out of him. Hot tag t Zenk. As Tom and Barry brawled on the outside, Arn came off the ropes and Z Man tripped him. (Right in front of Nick Patrick who just shrugged.) Eaton dropped an elbow and scored the pin. Would have liked to see them give a victory to the Horsemen. The whole thing was done great. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ Crowd was chanting, "Bobby, Bobby." after the bout and there wasn't any cassette recorder working. It was legit.

Tag Team Match

Stan Hansen & Sid Vicious destroyed Southern Boys in 9:01. Pure brutality on the part of Hansen. He's so fun to watch because you know at some point he'll get out of control. Bout started as Steve Armstrong and brother Brad. Two minutes into the bout, Tracy Smothers came out to take Brad's place. He arrived late to the building. Brad owes Tracy part of his life. If Smothers would have been smart, he would have stayed lost for a while. At least till this match was over. Sid manhandled photog Jimmy Suzuki at ringside. As Tracy was coming back on Vicious, he went over to Stan on the apron and slugged him. Wrong move. Stan reached through the ropes and grabbed his ankle as he tried to leave the corner. Shoot time. You can just tell. Nothing smooth about this hammering at all. Heels laid Steve on the ringside table and hit him with chair shots. Sid went easy, Stan didn't. Finish saw Stan lariat Tracy and Sid powerbomb him. Fans popped for the finish as it was devastating. Sid is still terrible. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

World Heavyweight Championship

El Gigante beat Ric Flair via DQ in 8:17. What a surprise. The giant wasn't that over. Ric had his right hamstring heavily wrapped. Match consisted of mostly Ric holding out his hand so El could toss him into the ropes and corner where Ric would do all the work, take clotheslines, feet to the face, flip over the buckles, etc. Guy shouldn't be in the ring. He did learn how to suplex. Pretty good too. Ric used an object to rake the eyes and turn the tables. Gigante reversed it and rammed Flair's head into the guardrail. Blade time. Even for this jolly GREEN giant. Gigante had Ric in the claw when Barry and Arn interfered for the DQ. Lex and Sting ran out to make sure they didn't beat on El. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

World Tag Team Championship

Doom retained their tag titles by beating Sting & Lex Luger in 18:14. No Teddy Long. Reed was nose to nose with this fan. If the fan had taken a swing, they'd still be scrapping him up off the floor. This was alot better than their Clash match and no commercial interruption either. Lex was suplexing Simmons back in the ring when Reed grabbed Lex's foot and Ron landed on top of Luger while Butch held his foot so he couldn't kick out. Good spots throughout. Why didn't they make Sting do the job? Teach this obnoxious idiot a lesson. What is he going to do quit? With a contract? Put him in the ring with Stan. *** $\frac{1}{4}$

NOTES

A WCW official told me the crowd was around 4,000. I'd go with 3,500..... The official wouldn't confirm that the May PPV was being held in St. Pete although he did acknowledge that they had a May date at the Bayfront Center..... WCW was in Orlando trying to secure another station to air World Wide. The only local outlet they have is a weak UHF station that airs WCW Pro at 8:00 a.m. Saturday mornings.....Thinks the crowds will pick up after the war. What was the excuse before the war started?.....Some guy behind me said to his kid that Arn use to team with OLDIE Anderson (Not kidding.) I thought it was Bill Kunkel. And later he said, "Black Bart use to wrestle in Texas as a good guy and team with Kerry Von Erich." And then I was positive it was Kunkel. Potshot.....Best WCW card I've seen in a while and the first of four trips to St. Pete that was truly worth while.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Monday, February 18, 1991

Orlando Arena

Orlando, FL

This was a taping for "Superstars of Wrestling" and some matches were shot for "Prime Time Wrestling" as well. I believe these matches will air the three weeks prior to "Wrestlemania". Jeff Siegel from Chicago was in town so the grades for the competitive matches are our combined grade.

1) Chris Chavis had another tryout beating Brooklyn Brawler. Has a decent Indian gimmick but his rope work is very hesitant. Needs some time to develop. Won with the Wall Street Crash. 2) Jim Powers pinned J.W. Storm with a sunset flip in the corner. This was probably an attitude test for Storm to see how he would take doing a job for Powers. At one point, J.W. gets on one knee and tells the fans to cheer him with the motion from his hands. Wonder where he learned that from. Another stiff. 3) Barbarian and Greg Valentine were both counted out at 6:24. Fans popped for Valentine which surprised me since the only place the turn angle was aired was USA Network. $\frac{1}{2}$ * star because Jeff said Valentine is blond again. 4) Earthquake over Scotty Williams. Tenta actually threw a pretty good dropkick. A masked man ran out and headbutted Quake a few times before leaving again. It was Beefcake. 5) Hacksaw Duggan speared Alan Martin. 6) Kerry Von Erich beat Ted DiBiase in 6:29 when Virgil who was in Kerry's corner, tripped Ted as he went for a suplex and Kerry landed on top for the win. **Mean Gene held an interview with Ultimate Warrior talking about "Wrestlemania" and his bout with Savage. Mean Gene mentioned that the Undertaker would be present to pour ashes over Warrior if he lost. So it'll be an Undertaker-Warrior series post WM.....7) Hart Foundation crushed Pete Sanchez & John Morton. 8) The Mountie prodded Dan Brazil. Rougeau seems really into his gimmick. 9) Big Boss Man slammed Brooklyn Brawler. 10) Jimmy Snuka piledrove Kinji. This jobber came to the ring doing martial arts stuff with his hands. The boys in the back must have been howling. He gets in the ring and gets squashed. Was probably trying to make an impression. 11) Haku and the Barbarian destroyed Randy Hunter & Dale Wolf. Haku did a number on Hunter with chops and a savate kick to the face. Super stiff. Ultimate stiff match: Haku & Barbie vs. Steiners. 12) Jake Roberts beat Kato of the Orient Express in 7:03 via DQ when Pat Tanaka interfered after Jake delivered the DDT. * $\frac{1}{4}$ 13) Hacksaw Duggan speared General Adnon in 2:13. Slaughter came down after and whipped Duggan with his belt but Hack turned it around and whapped Sarge with the 2x4. Dud 14) Roddy Piper beat Mr. Perfect via count out in 12:19. Best bout on the card. Excellant brawling. Roddy is over so huge. Vince is missing the boat with Piper. Roddy is the only one with a natural looking body compared to all the roid monsters in the whiff. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 15) Legion of Doom over Keith Steinborn & Chris Sullivn. 16) Demolition over Tito Santana & Koko Ware in a Prime timer at 8:21. Real bad match. Jeff was so sure that Koko would turn on Tito that he told the couple behind him what was going to happen. When it didn't, boy did he have egg on his face. Dud 17) Kevin Greenough beat Ted DiBiase via count out when Virgil came to ringside and Ted came out of the ring to challenge him and the ref counted him out.Mean Gene then interviewed Sgt. Slaughter and Adnon. Think Vince has toned it down? Some of the comments i.e. "I'm one bad mother scud and I won't be able to be knocked down by your patriot missiles." "Hulk Hogan saying he will beat me is just a "cruel hoax". They finished the interview by burning a Hogan T-shirt that was on a flagstaff.

He'll always be a pompous ass. 18) Davey Boy Smith powerslammed Cliff Sheets. 19) Kerry Von Erich discus punched Pez Whatley.....Mean Gene then interviewed Hulk Hogan. Hulk's interview wasn't that bad. Although he did equate burning his T-shirt to burning the American flag.....20) Rick Martel boston crabbed Frankie Lancaster. Two minutes into the bout, Rick put a black cloak over Lancaster's head so he couldn't see. This was to hype the bout with Jake at WM which is a blindfold match. The stupid thing is, they wrestled the rest of the 5 minute squash like this without the ref trying to take it off of Frankie. But the sheets expose the biz. 21) Rockers beat Alan Martin & Kinji. Jannetty used the same move on Martin as he did on Chuck Austin when he almost killed the guy. 22) Undertaker toombstoned Pat Armstrong. 23) Nasty Boys beat Kelly Davis & Brian Costello. 24) The Viking (NOrd the Barbarian) beat Dan Brazil on a count out. I don't know why he didn't pin the guy. Vikir is now a heel (debuted at last tapings as a face) billed from Iceland and managed by Mr. Fuji. You go figure. 25) Don Leo Jonathon used the mormon swing to beat Tito Torres.....Paul Bearer then does a segment similar to Brother Love use to do. His set consists of a coffin, a candleabra (sp), and dry ice to give it that eery feeling. Percy really plays the part well. It's all very ghoolish. Boss Man was his guest and they talked about the Mountie. Another post WM marriage. The segmant though is too similar to Bro Love and as a matter of fact, some fans were heard saying that Pringle was Brother Love..... 26) Hulk Hogan beat Earthquake in a stretcher match using the leg bomb to lay out Quake. He then hit Hart with the megaphone and Hart was taken out on top of Tenta. * 27) Sgt. Slaughter beat Ultimate Warrior in a cage when Sherri distracted Warrior and Sarge climbed out. Ultimate then stripped Sherri down t bra and gartr belt. (The ultimate in family entertainment.) Sarge came back but Warrior beat him up again and the Nasties came down but Warrior kept throwing t off as well. Everyone finally left but Sherri got caught again and Hellwig press slammed her and they carted her off on a stretcher. Match was a dud and too long for midnight. It went 17:20. Good action after bout though. NOTES Crowd was only 9,000 in a 15,000 seat builing. I knew they were in trouble when they ran an ad in the Orlando Sentinel. They never run ads here....When I asked Jeff what the WWF would be like if Vince ever turned it over to someone else, he said, "What's he going to do, go work for Nabisco?" Wise guy.

RAMBLINGS

The Doom breakup occurred Sunday night at the Omni. It was taped for TBS. Simmons wrestled Barry Windham in a single bout when Reed and Teddy Long came down and Butch accidentally hit Ron. Simmons slugged Butch and it ended with Long and Reed strapping Simmons. Now what will the people in Atlanta think when they see Doom together Sunday at the PPV? Good organizing guys.....Also at the Omni Sunday night, Ricky Morton, Tommy Rich, and JYD won the isx man tag belts beating Buddy Landell, Dutch Mantell, and Dr. X (Culley). Were the quarter finals and semi finals held in South Africa? Ric Flair did a stretcher job for El Gigante. They're going rock bottom with this. Ric's taped thigh is due to spilling boiling hot coffeeen his thigh in a McDonalds. Sting & Lex Luger beat Stan Hansen & Sid Vicious in a wild brawl. Heels were DQ'd for Stan getting out of control. Crowd was 6,000. Thanks to Steve Prazak for Omni info.....Should be obvious to everyone that Freebirds will be getting the World tag straps Sunday. Why? Must be because Michael Hayes has been kissing Dusty's ass on WCW Pro. "The man who sold out more buildings in North America than anyone else." Keep on shilling brother. Oliver Humperdink coming in to manageBirds with Dallas Page.....Owen Hart once again beeing talked about. They even have a match skedded next month in the Omni with Pillman & Hart vs. Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner. Hope it comes through. I wonder if Owen knows he's booked.....Shane Douglas quit the WWF due to the illness of his father. He wants to stay close to home so he's looking for a teacher's position in Pittsburgh.....Talk is that Randy Savage when he returns from his "retirement match loss" that he will do so as a commentator. Seems he wants to get off the juice. Wonder if has anything to do with having a little Macho Man..... Looks like Earthquake will feud with the masked Beefer since Beefcake does run ins on all his squashes. Could it be a revenge factor for Brutus. Maybe Quake sabotaged the parasail.....Slaughter said to be turning face after WM. Who does that leave Hogan with?.....With Boss Man feuding with Rougeau, that frees up Hennig. Could we get to see a Hennig-Steamboat series so soon?....In the latest WWF magazine, the guy doing the "Just Say No" ad is Kerry Von Erich. That's a bad joke if I ever heard one.....Why do I get the feeling Missy Hyatt and Tom Zenk are an item?.....Lex Luger is refusing to go to Japan for the Tokyo Dome show. It states in his contract that he only has to work in North America and since they want him to do a job for Choshu over there, he's enforcing the clause. There goes my respect for Luger. Talk is they'll put Sid in his place. Poor Riki.....Mike Rotunda was supposed to debut at the WWF tapings here in Orlando. Not sure if he made it to Ft. Myers Tuesday night.....After the Harts lose the straps to the Nasties at WM, Bret Hart will be pushed as a single. Not sure of the future of Neidhart.....The May PPV will be held in St Petersburg on May 19th (We've heard that before right?). Main event will be Flair vs. Fujinami. Some thought Ric would regain the belt here since he was goingto lose it in Japan but that won't happen. They'll do a finish in Tokyo

(continued on page 10)

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

By Marianne Ryan

Subtitle this: What's wrong with the WWF? And the unfortunate answer is quite a bit. The question isn't what to talk about, rather, where to begin. Why not start with the most serious mistake Vince McMahon has made to date.

Many months ago, McMahon thought he came up with a great marketing idea. The U.S. had sent troops over to Saudi Arabia. So why not bring back Sgt. Slaughter? At first, have him go after Nikolai Volkoff to show how soft we have gotten on communism (and to show just how bad a match can be). Then, as the situation in the Persian Gulf heated up, have Slaughter take on an Iraqi, Gen. Adnon, as his manager. Let them wave an Iraqi flag, speak in arabic, parade around pictures of Saddam Hussein. It seemed like such a good idea. Such an easy way to get a heel over big time. And then we went to war.

McMahon should have had the sense to drop the angle, bury it and do something else -- anything else. Slaughter was set to face the Warrior at the Rumble. Word was Slaughter was going to get the belt. Hogan is to win it back at WMVII. Warrior had often said that he would not drop the belt to Hogan. Yet, the war seemed a justifiable reason to alter the plans. Instead, McMahon was too blinded by the thought of how he could capitalize on the situation to take notice of reality.

Slaughter won the belt, and the Miami audience fell silent. It wasn't just a travesty, it was an insult to everything we as Americans believe in. Young men are dying in an effort to overthrow a man Slaughter had openly been praising only weeks before. It was one of the most tasteless things I have ever seen.

At the time, I pointed out something to a friend that it seemingly took Vince a few weeks to figure out. He wanted to sell over 100,000 more tickets to the L.A. Coliseum with a main event of the evil Slaughter against the immortal, but more importantly, all-American Hulk Hogan. But how do you promote it? If Slaughter opens his mount, you risk offending every prospective ticket buyer. Yet with no conflict, you have no interest; no interest, no 100,000 plus in the Coliseum.

It was just announced that McMahon has pulled out of the Coliseum, and WMVII will now be held at the L.A. Sports Arena.

Considering over 20,000 tickets have been sold, and the Sports Arena holds around 16,000, McMahon has himself with a sell-out -- even with those folks who demand refunds, not exchanges. He's going to lose a lot of money -- not only on ticket sales and merchandising -- but I truly doubt he'll do as well as in the past with the PPV.

But it's just not the main event that stinks. There is the Hart Foundation-Nasty Boy match. Considering that the Harts are supposed to drop the belts here, I doubt this news sits well with some of the other tag teams, especially the Rockers. It also demonstrates one of the WWF's main problems.

The WWF has a solid base of competitors, many of whom have been, or would be, champs elsewhere. Instead of building these people up, and occasionally bringing in a new face to increase competition, McMahon consistently brings in new people and uses his seasoned veterans to get them over. This policy may work in the short run (gee, the Nasty Boys are hot, why not bring them in), but after a while, there simply is no excitement over a new face (case in point, the Undertaker). Vince needs to make excitement out of what he has, not look to the WCW to provide it.

There is no denying the WWF has good talent, slick production, and the money to do a lot with that. But if the WWF, and wrestling are going to survive in the 90's, McMahon needs to learn a very important lesson, and he need look no further than the Royal Rumble. The high point of the evening should have been Sgt. Slaughter winning the world championship belt. Instead, that was the disgrace of the evening. The high point was actually the opening match between the Rockers and the Orient Express. That was some of the most exciting wrestling I've seen in a while, and I dare all you hardcore NWA fanatics to dismiss that.

The cold, hard reality is that while gimmicks may sell merchandise, in order to sell that merchandise, you have to sell tickets. Gimmicks don't sell tickets, good wrestling does. Unless McMahon realizes that, he'll be lucky to fill up any arena for WMVII.

Next month, what's wrong with the NWA, whoops, WCW, and the other groups.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

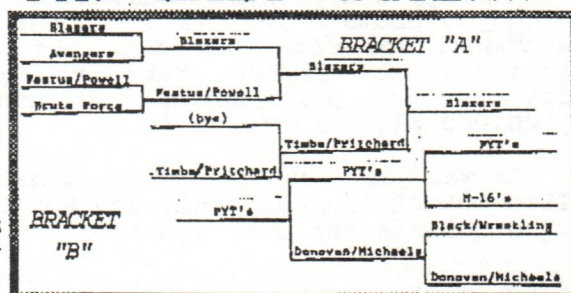
GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

000000000!!!! WHAT A RUSH! or Triumph, or Loverboy, or any of the great Canadian bands of the 1980's. Yes, its issue 14 of the Georgia Wrestling Journal....

CENTER STAGE Atlanta, Georgia (02-04-91) WCW TV TAPING FOR AIR ON FEBRUARY 23, 1991. World Championship Wrestling: Dustin Rhodes over Mark Kyle..Big Josh over Joe cazana..Stan Hansen over Scott Sandlin..Sid Vicious, Arn Anderson, Ric Flair, & Barry Windham over David Iseley, Tommy Angel, Larry Santo, & Scott Summers..Bobby Eaton over Jim Boss..Tom Zenk over Joe Cruz..Brian Pillman over John Peterson..Terry Taylor over Robbie Campbell..Ricky Morton, Junkyard Dog & Tommy Rich over Magnum Force & Bill Ford..Dan Spivey over Carl Robertson..The Freebirds over Keith Hart & Larry Forten..NEWS AND NOTES: Please keep in mind that this is the show that airs the day before the WrestleWar Pay Per View..After the "fan out of the stands" debut of Big Josh (Matt Borne) on the 02-16-91 show, another fan heeds the same call during this show's Hansen squash and pushes Hansen. Needless to say, this nut was carted off and I doubt that we will see him debut as Tommy Rich's partner any time soon..The Four Horsemen squash was awesome, however, Arn was not working to the the knee injury..Pay close attention to this- after the Pillman squash, he is jumped and destroyed by the Horsemen. This is so violent, they could even do a broken neck angle out of this. No one made the save and Pillman is carried out by several jobbers. Seems to me that this opens up Pillman's spot in the WarGames for, oh, any booker or his son who wants to be pushed to the moon. Wouldn't you agree, Dusty?..There was a very good dark match between The Steiners and the Freebirds with Rick pinning Jimmy Jam..By the way, the reason Rhubarb Jones is listed as a DJ for both Y106 and Y104 is that his morning show is simulcast on both stations as is the midday and afternoon drive-time show. At other times during the broadcast day, the stations air separte programing, although that are owned by the same company and operate out of the same studio. (ATT:375 poor)

SPARKLES RINK Lawrenceville, Georgia (02-10-91) GAW TV TAPING FOR AIR THE WEEKENDS OF MARCH 3 THROUGH MARCH 31, 1991.(03-03-91) The Blazers over The Avengers..Joel Deaton over The Urban Cowboy..Norman over Mad Dog Joe..Jimmy Powell & Festus over Brute Force by DQ..(03-10-91) Big Bully Busick over James Myers..The Pretty Young Things over The M-16s..Fabian over Avenger #1..The Blazers over Festus & Jimmy Powell..(03-17-91) Chic Donovan & John Michaels over Billy Black & Mr. Wrestling..Norman over Big Bully Busick by DQ..Mike Winner over The Hangman..The Blazers over Ken Timbs & Steve Pritchard..(03-24-91) Jimmy Powell over Tim Strong..Joel Deaton over Joseph Magliano by DQ..Festus over Randy Brewer..The Pretty Young Things over Chic Donovan & John Michaels..(03-31-91) Norman over Steve Lawler..Billy Black over Fabian..Joseph Magliano over Mike Servich..The Pretty Young Things over The Blazers..NEWS AND NOTES: The dearth of tag team matches is due to the 5 week televised tourney for the Georgia tag team straps. The PYT's (Jim Bryant and Fred Avery) won the tourney, bracketted at The Last Word..Deaton was turned face with Norman against Busick and Steve Lawler..Brute Force tag team had a gorgeous valet named The Beautiful Barbie..Not to brag, mind you, but the interplay between Joe Pedicino, Ronnie P. Gossett, and myself on some of these shows is hilarious..(ATT:200) Late word has Flair losing the strap to Fujinami in Tokyo. Hhhmmmm..

THE LAST WORD...



UNDER THE MUSHROOM

with

KLON

Happy New Year ! As you may or may not know Friday February 15, 1991 was the first day of the new year. Chinese New Year that is. Yes we have begun year 4688, the Year of the Ram. The ne year occurs on the second new moon following the winter solstice. The lunar calendar common in most Asian countries operates in 12-year cycles, with a different animal representing each year.

Dusty Rhodes if nothing else is providing decent tv wrestling for his group. While the Ric Flair/El Gigante feud is a hardcore fans nightmare. I'm sure to the casual fan loves seeing a nearly eight foot tall monster chasing Ric Flair around. And lets be honest with ourselves the WCW group has the hardcore fans wrapped up, we will watch whatever they present. WCW has to try to regain the casual fans. Don't get me wrong I abhor the legendary Ric Flair cowering for that aberration from South America, but I can see the rhyme and reason for it. The last Clash was horrible due mainly to Dustys selfpromotion antics perhaps the p-p-v will redeem him. I think Paul E. was the perfect color man for Jim Ross (although I would love to see Larry Zbyszko given a chance or Jim Cornette brought back as a tv personality). I'm anxious to see how Dusty will react to all the negativity concerning the Clash.

Thumbs down to the WWF/Hogan/Slaughter/War angle. This is worst angle of modern times, I will not be taking the p-p-v. This is all I will say on this subject. The WWF does have some interesting things going on. I can't believe how much the Nasty Boys have improved since their Fla days. After they get past the Legion of Doom feud, I very much look forward to a Nasty Boys/Rockers series. I think that the WWF has hit paydirt with the addition of Percy Pringle in his new guise as the Paul Bearer. While not a good interview, Percy has some of the best facial contortions ever seen and should fit in great in the cartoon world of the WWF. The addition of the always hard working Ricky Steamboat is a first rate acquisition for the WWF. So despite the wrong things Vince is doing, he does have positive as well.

Hey gang do you really like Arena Report ? I know that Ron works very hard to give you a good sheet not an Observer clone or Observer wannbe as some of the better known sheets have become. So why not do your part to make Arena Report bigger and better. Tell someone about Arena Report and perhaps they will subscribe. Drop Ron a note, tell him what you like or don't like. Your feedback will determine the future of this sheet. Maybe you can get me the hell out of here, it's mighty cold and damp under this damn mushroom.....

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Landover Capital Centre (WWF)

Landover, MD

February 3, 1991

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) Barbarian used a hotshot to beat Koko Ware. C 2) Hacksaw Duggan pinned General Adnon. F- 3) Undertaker beat Tugboat. F 4) Roddy Piper defeated Curt Hennig via count out when the two were brawling on the floor and Roddy beat the count back into the ring. C+ 5) Rockers downed Demolition when Michaels pinned Smash. C 6) Big Boss Man over Haku. D 7) Nasty Boys beat the Bushwhackers when Knobbs pinned Butch Miller. Bruce said this match reminded him of why he quit going to WWF shows. F 8) Sgt. Slaughter beat Ultimate Warrior in a cage match with the help of Sherri. C ATT: 5,600

Pittsburgh Civic Arena (WWF)

Pittsburgh, PA

February 15, 1991

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Tito Santana reversed a figure four attempt by Dino Bravo and rolled him up at 15:08. C 2) Barbarian hotshotted Koko Ware in 9:40. D+ 3) The Mountie used a lengthy nerve hold to make Jim Powers submit at 7:02. Powers was a sub for Shane Douglas. C- 4) Hart Foundation turned back Power & Glory in 14:56 when Bret pinned Paul Roma with a small package that was reversed by Neidhart. B- 5) Nasty Boys downed The Rockers at 21:38. Nasties were pissed at the heel fans cheering them. Knobbs hit Shawn Michaels with Jimmy Hart's shoe to set up the pin. B 6) Hacksaw Duggan speared General Adnon in 1:03. D 7) Kerry Von Erich beat Ted DiBiase with the help of Virgil in 4:24. When they were doing the intros, they said Kerry wasn't there and Santana would take his place. As Tito came out, Kerry and Virgil walked into the runway and Tito was bewildered. Kerry had just arrived at the building. D+ 8) Hulk Hogan used the legbomb to beat Earthquake and send him out on a stretcher. Must have been a more lethal legbomb than his usual dose. Time was 9:50. C+ Hogan then hit Jimmy Hart with the megaphone and he was piled on the stretcher as well. ATT: 10,000

LETTERS TO "AR"

Demoralized

For anyone with an interest in U.S. Pro Wrestling, this past week can best be described as demoralizing. Dusty's bi-annual homecoming show featured a mandate of screwy finishes and poor taste. From the arm wrestling match to the Dreams heartwrenching message to our troops, "Kick some ass", it was certainly a show for the whole family. A family of ants maybe. The Flair/Scott Steiner encounter was the most unwatchable big match in recent memory. So many starts and stops, it was like a football game with a flag on every play.

The WWF's Main Event on NBC reminded me of a celebrity competition that aired in syndication back in the mid 70's. This old show got the kids from "The Brady Bunch" against, say the King Family in a "Super Sloppy Double Dare" type competition. Seeing Tugboat walk out was like seeing Greg, Peter, and Bobby all rolled into one. Seeing Bravo reminded me of Jan and Cindy. Anyhow, the wrestling was just like Slaughter's chair shots, non-existent. About WRESTLEMANIA, you get the impression that a Big John Scud vs. Konnan, the heat-seeking Patriot match isn't out of the question?

It's too bad that wrestling isn't providing some escapist light hearted fun during this time of real tragedy. As for the blood of an Arizona 10-man cage match or the cartoon carnage coming to California in March, count me out.

Steve Genarelli

Melbourne, FL

Dusty & Bush

So Big Dust said on the Jan. 30th Clash of the Champions that we shouldn't be criticizing our President for getting us involved in the current Middle East madness? Well, that's no surprise; rumor has it that both Mr. Runnells and out fearless leader had attended the very same reform school, albeit at different time periods for each guy. Allegedly, both have taken great pains, blues, and agony to keep this story from making it to the National Enquirer and Weekly World News. Somehow though, the Jeanne Dixon within me predicts this startling story (true or false) will show up someplace shortly, given the two mens track records...live and in color, of course.

Bob Shepherd
Abington, MA

Let's Give Marianne A Break

Although Marianne may not need or want anyone else to write about her, I felt it was time to hear something from someone that enjoys Marianne's column.

Marianne's column is one of my favorite things about "AR". I am envious every time I read it, because I didn't nab her for "Riot". I always say, "This would be perfect for my sheet." I have all the respect in the world for Lance Levine and also Paul MacArthur, but hey guys, let's give Marianne a break.

I know what many readers of "AR" are saying, "BT, she's a rat. You make jokes about people like her all the time." I agree that I do make jokes about rats and exposed alot of readers to what rats are through my columnists. I may have even heard calling Marianne's column "Rat In The Parking Lot", but hey, Marianne has addressed this question. She says she's not a rat. I believe her. My opinion of her job in "AR" is to report and write about what she enjoys, what the readers enjoy, and what she might see as her on "image" as a writer. As writers, we all have images, whether they are good or bad. She gives us an inside look that I think might make others jealous that they don't get to go "backstage". She is an "insider", but guilty of being a rat because she rides with the guys. I'm guilty at times of the same assumptions, but if a guy was writing this same article, would we consider him gay? Many would. Others would just consider him "one of the boys".

As for Marianne's comments about Missy, I think she has the opportunity to voice her opinion about Missy if she wishes. I'm one of the biggest Missy fans around, I wasn't offended. I guess when I call Jim Hellwig, "The Ultimate Roider", then I'm jealous about his body. Not true. I'd rather be "out of shape and out of date", like I am, rather than have all those chemicals in my body.

All I've tried to say is give Marianne a chance to print what she wants. Let's get off her case. And hey, Marianne, if you leave "AR", you've got a job at "Riot" waiting on you.

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State University, AR 72467 \$3.00 for 4 issues.

RL- One great point BT made was if a guy wrote the articles Marianne writes. Jaime Ward and Tom Robinson have told some wild stories in helping the NWA boys around in Philly and those two are far from being gay. If they were the authors of the column, would anything be said?

Pro-WWF

Okay, now it's my turn to bitch. I am one of those who is definitely NOT enjoying watching Vince get screwed. Oh his personal feelings don't bother me in particular. If he loses money on "Wrestlemania", he'll make it up somewhere. I wasn't about to pay for four air fares to Los Angeles to see "Wrestlemania" anyway. I do however, know people who were planning to go. I don't know yet if they still have tickets. It's not just Mr. McMahon getting screwed but approximately 85,000 fans. But don't worry about them because anyone who likes the WWF has no taste anyway, right?

The fact that the WWF won't be appearing at the Meadowlands hits closer to home. You may think it's funny, but I live in New Jersey. The Meadowlands is 20 minutes away as opposed to two hours to the Nassau Coliseum. The ride to Madison Square Garden isn't all that long but hardly a pleasant trip under the streets of New York. Sure we'll put up with it but we won't like it. As for going there now to see WCW, forget it! I intend to inform the arena officials that if they can do without the WWF, they can do without me too. After Hogan wins the title back and starts drawing crowds to the arenas again, they're going to wish they weren't so hasty.

Elyse Zois
Union, NJ

Rodney Leighton

This is being written in reply to your invitation in Feb 4th "AR" re: Rodney Leighton and yourself. I am probably not aware of all the facts or background, nor do I really want to, it is none of my business. Nor would I

attempt to decide who should write columns for you and who shouldn't (as proven by my saying nothing against Mike Terry) You merely stated you had not had 1 reply. Consider this one. I was looking forward to reading Rodney in "AR", and was disappointed it didn't work out. Of course, I am by no means upset at you in any way, shape, or form. I trust you know me well enough, just from a couple of note exchanges, to believe that.

I simply hate to see the ill will and animosity that has developed between two people I like and respect. To me, that's a shame. I wish much success to both of you in your individual efforts in newsletters and life.

Greg Miller
Hamilton, ONT

RL- Thanks for the letter Greg, I appreciate your feedback and honesty.

Mountie Fan

I may be alone, but I'm a fan of the Mountie. Due to MVC basketball games that take off almost all WWF shows, I missed Mountie's TV debut for "Superstars". Does anyone know who Jacques beat on the show? Has anyone noticed Rougeau's treatment of opponents after a match? Boss Man does basically the same thing but it's a crime when the heel does it!

Other than being an occasional WWF jobber with Lords of Darkness partner Duane Gill, is there any other information you can give me on Barry Hardy?

John Herron
Marble Hill, MO

RL- Maybe "AR"'s resident Baltimore indy fans Bruce Ginevan or Ferk can help you with that. If either of you can supply some info on Hardy for John, how about dropping me a note for next ish?

(from page 4)

that will warrant a return match.....For fans coming into St. Pete that weekend I will be making a few calls to some contacts out there about setting up a show on Saturday night so that would give us another show to attend. There are a few indy groups there that I'm sure would be pleased as punch to run a show since it would be one of their biggest crowds with the regulars and the fans in town for the PPV.....Can't believe Jim Herd thinks Dusty adds a different dimension to the broadcasts. Yeah, it's called the Twilight Zone....
PLUGS: Wrestling Tape Exchange has a multi-page tape list of all high interest items free by request. All tapes sell for 15.00. Contact them at 2417-8 Barley Club Court, Orlando, FL 32821.....Brian Tramel is offering a special 6-Pack Deal to "Rasslin Riot". To celebrate his 6 months of doing the sheet, Brian is offering two six packs for \$10.00. This includes the first 6 issues of RIOT as well as the next 6. Again, write to BT at P.O. Box 3494, State University, AR 72467.....For "AR" fans that can't get enough off Evan Ginzburg, try his newsletter "Wrestling-Then & Now". \$1.25 per issue at P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364.....John Lanigan has a good tape list available with a variety of stuff. Send a self addressed stamped envelope to John at P.O. Box 583, McKeesport, PA 15134.....Gene Anderson has opened up a wrestling school near Charlotte, NC. For more info, you can write to "The Andersons School of Professional Wrestling, P.O. Box 541, Indian Trail, NC 28079-0541.....My 4 month old son is already watching wrestling with me. I kid you not. Every Sat. morning from 8-10 he sits on my lap and stares at the TV. He already knows his stuff too. When Dustin Rhodes appeared on the screen, Christopher started laughing uproariously.....Was that Bruce Grummert who had a letter in the recent Dennis Brent publication "Wrestling Wrap-Up"?... Found something more exploitive than Vince and the Slaughter angle. Topps is now putting out "Operation Desert Storm" cards. Please.....That will do it from here. See everyone in two.

Ron